

2.5 Determining whether UNODC can support non-UN security forces

In its work to prevent and address human trafficking and migrant smuggling, UNODC frequently works with police, border control, military or security forces, for instance, through capacity building, provision of technical assistance and other support. Some authorities violate rights in responding to trafficking in persons or smuggling of migrants, for instance, where border, immigration, coast guard or other agencies use push-backs of smuggled migrants that may amount to refoulement or arbitrarily detain victims of trafficking, including children, or incarcerate persons convicted of perpetrating these crimes in conditions that amount to torture.

UNODC is required to carry out due diligence before providing support to or accepting support from authorities. The 2011 Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on UN support to non-UN Security Forces (HRDDP) is relevant in determining whether UNODC can work with authorities or not, and in assessing the possible risks that may be involved in doing so. According to HRDDP, the UN cannot provide support where there are substantial grounds

for believing that there is a real risk of entities committing grave violations of international humanitarian, human rights or refugee law and where authorities fail to take the necessary corrective or mitigating measures. This HRDDP applies to:

- National military
- Paramilitary
- Police
- Intelligence services
- Border control
- Security forces
- Authorities responsible for management, administration or command or control of such forces

The flow chart below offers a simplified summary of considerations that UNODC must undertake in determining whether it can provide support in the context of its work to prevent and address human trafficking and migrant smuggling. More information should be sought by referring directly to the HRDDP and to any country-specific guidance that may be in place.



Flowchart: Determining whether UNODC can support non-UN security forces

